

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
- providing a mold having a cavity, wherein a first portion of the cavity forms at least one finger tab, a second portion of the cavity forms a tube, and a third portion of the cavity forms a hinge between the first portion of the cavity and the second portion of the cavity;
- feeding a molten polymer into the cavity of the mold; and
- cooling the polymer.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- providing a fourth portion of the cavity which forms a self-sealing valve.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein feeding a molten polymer occurs through one of injection molding, multi-injection molding, co-injection molding, and gas assist molding.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein at least two polymers are co-injected into the mold.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- ejecting a one-piece introducer.
6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- inserting a valve into the tube.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 forming a plurality of finger tabs.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer is selected from the group  
2 consisting of liquid crystal polymer, polyetheramide, polycarbonate, polyester with  
3 glass fiber, polyester with carbon filler, polyamide with glass fiber, thermoplastic  
4 elastomer, polyolefins and polyamide with carbon filler.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer is introduced into a mold at a  
2 temperature approximately in the range of 200°C to 340°C.

3 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the polymer is introduced at a pressure  
4 approximately in the range of 1,000 psi to 5,000 psi.

5 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the first portion of the cavity forms a second  
6 finger tab.

7 12. The method of claim 5, wherein one of a longitudinal scoreline and offline  
8 scoreline is formed in the tube of the introducer.

9 13. The method of claim 5, wherein a beveled tip is formed at a distal end of a  
10 tube of the introducer.

1 14. A method of making a one-piece introducer comprising:  
2 providing a mold having a cavity, wherein a proximal portion having a  
3 finger tab portion and a distal portion having a tube portion, wherein the finger tab  
4 portion is connected to the tube portion through a hinge portion;

5 introducing molten polymer into a cavity of a mold; and  
6 forming a scoreline along the tube portion.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the polymer is selected from the group  
2 consisting of liquid crystal polymer, polyetheramide, polycarbonate, polyester with  
3 glass fiber, polyester with carbon filler, polyamide with glass fiber, polyolefins,  
4 thermoplastic elastomers and polyamide with carbon filler.

1 16. A one-piece introducer for an intravascular device, comprising:  
2 ✓ at least one finger tab portion;  
3 a tube portion;  
4 a hinge portion between the finger tab portion and the tube portion, wherein  
5 the finger tab portion, the hinge portion, and the tube portion form a seamless  
6 introducer.

1 17. The one-piece introducer of claim 16, comprising a polymer selected from the  
2 group consisting of liquid crystal polymer, polyetheramide, polycarbonate, polyester  
3 with glass fiber, polyester with carbon filler, polyamide with glass fiber,  
4 thermoplastic elastomers, polyolefins and polyamide with carbon filler.

1 18. The one-piece introducer of claim 16, wherein the tube portion is  
2 ✓ substantially hollow.

1 19. The one-piece introducer of claim 16, wherein the finger tab portion has a  
2 ✓ shape which is one of substantially rectangular, cylindrical, spherical, and square.

1 ✓ 20. The one-piece introducer of claim 16, further comprising:

2 a scoreline formed on the tube portion.

Sub C3 1 21. A one-piece introducer comprising:

2 at least one finger tab portion;

3 ✓ a tube portion having a scoreline, wherein the at least one finger tab portion

4 and the tube portion are seamless.

1 22. The one-piece introducer of claim 1, wherein a hinge is located between the  
2 tube portion and the at least one finger tab portion.

1 23. The one-piece introducer of claim 21, wherein the tube portion is  
2 substantially hollow.

1 24. The one-piece introducer of claim 21, wherein the finger tab portion has a  
2 shape which is one of substantially rectangular, cylindrical, spherical, and square.

Sub C3 1 25. A one-piece introducer comprising:

2 a tube;

3 ✓ the first finger tab and the second finger tab formed at a proximal end of the

4 tube without seams; and

5 a scoreline formed on the tube.

1 ✓ 26. The one-piece introducer of claim 25, further comprising:

2 a safety valve is coupled at the proximal end of the tube.

1 27. The one-piece introducer of claim 25, comprises a polymer, the polymer is

2 selected from the group consisting of liquid crystal polymer, polyetheramide,

3 polycarbonate, polyester with glass fiber, polyester with carbon filler, polyamide with  
4 glass fiber, thermoplastic elastomers, polyolefins and polyamide with carbon filler.

1 28. The one-piece introducer of claim 25, wherein the scoreline extends to a  
2 ✓ beveled distal tip of the tube portion.

1 29. The one-piece introducer of claim 25, wherein the tube is substantially  
2 ✓ hollow.

1 30. The one-piece introducer of claim 25, wherein the finger tab portion has a  
2 ✓ shape which is one of substantially rectangular, cylindrical, spherical, and square.